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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2015

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, strong to save, may this quiet moment prompt us to think thoughts about Your goodness and power throughout this day. May these thoughts keep us faithful and diligent in all our work, motivating us to labor for Your glory.

Lord, inspire our lawmakers to be honorable and generous in their dealing with each other, remembering Your great commandment to love their neighbors as they love themselves.

O God, You have been a refuge for Your people through many generations. Be our fortress in every moment and every need that we face this day. Guide us through the uncertainty and darkness, continually strengthening us for times of testing.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, we will vote tonight to bring long-overdue permanent leadership to an agency in urgent need of reform and culture change, and that is the TSA. I wish the White House hadn't waited 6 months to send us a nominee to lead this troubled agency, but now that the administration finally has, we are pleased to see a highly qualified candidate such as Peter Neffenger.

It is never easy to ensure a Senate review process that is appropriately thorough yet necessarily expeditious in the face of so many months of White House delay, but that is just what Chairman THUNE and Chairman JOHNSON achieved with the nominee before us. I thank them both for their good work.

If confirmed this evening, Vice Admiral Neffenger will certainly have a tough job ahead of him. We are all aware of the recent inspector general report that questioned the TSA's ability to meet its security mission without some significant changes. The American people will be counting on Mr. Neffenger to validate the trust their elected representatives place in him tonight by pursuing every necessary reform in the wake of such troubling findings. The Senate appears to

have confidence that he can achieve those goals. There is no doubt the Senate and the American people will be expecting that he will.

TRADE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, when it comes to keeping the American people safe, there are many things Congress can do. Encouraging reform at the TSA is one important step, but so is leading on trade.

President Obama's own Secretary of Defense recently said that the trade legislation before us was as important to him "as another aircraft carrier." This is the Secretary of Defense of the United States who said that the trade legislation before us was as important to him as another aircraft carrier. But he cautioned that "time's running out [to] cement our influence and leadership in the fastest-growing region in the world."

We all know how critical this legislation is for lifting up American workers, American wages, and the American economy as well. We shouldn't let this opportunity for a significant bipartisan achievement slip past us. If we can continue working together in a spirit of trust and if we simply vote the same way we did a couple of weeks ago, we won't miss this opportunity.

I know how important it is—particularly for my friends on the other side of the aisle—to get both TPA and TAA, trade adjustment assistance. That linkage has been acknowledged from the beginning of this process. It is why I set in motion a process last week—filing cloture on the vehicles for both

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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